



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
STOP 1084
Washington, DC
20250-1084

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Agricultural Sciences
2006 Program Description**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Faculty Exchange Program (FEP), managed by the Foreign Agricultural Service, International Cooperation and Development, Research and Scientific Exchanges Division (FAS/ICD/RSED), brings qualified agricultural educators from progressive agricultural universities in Romania to the United States to increase their knowledge of, and ability to teach and perform research in, agricultural science subjects such as animal health, food safety, food quality, food inspection, phytosanitary measures, and grades and standards.

The goal of the program is to promote the development of sound agricultural science policy, teaching, and research techniques in Romania. The objectives of the Faculty Exchange Program are to:

1. Increase the number of adults in Romania who are well versed in current agricultural science issues and who can employ the latest research techniques by improving the quantity and quality of academic and adult education programs in the agricultural sciences;
2. Develop the ability of participating faculty to evaluate and revise curricula and courses through the application of basic principles of learning and curriculum development;
3. Develop participants' knowledge of, and ability to apply, US agricultural scientific research methods;
4. Establish enduring US-Romania university relationships that will catalyze and support curriculum development, course revision, and research in the agricultural sciences.
5. Provide an opportunity for the selected faculty to enter and more fully participate in the worldwide networks of agricultural science, research, and technology.

Increasing the number of adults in Romania who have a well-rounded view of current agricultural science issues and who can perform research using the latest methods and standards, increasing the number of people who can teach and create educational materials on the agricultural sciences, and increasing the number of people with the mind-set to adapt to current conditions is critical to the formulation and implementation of sound policy and increased trade in Romania.

This year the FEP is accepting applications for a 3 to 4-month program. We anticipate that the program will begin in August 2006. Individual candidate and university administrative interviews are tentatively planned to take place in late May 2006.

Requirements:

- Applicants should be teaching at the university level and have a background in the agricultural sciences in areas such as animal health, food quality, food inspection, phytosanitary measures, and grades and standards.
- Applicants must be proficient in oral and written English. All aspects of the program will take place in English; interpreters will not be used.
- Applicants must be in good health and, if accepted, will be required to have a physical exam prior to traveling to the US.
- The applicant's university must be willing to continue to pay the salary of the participant while they take part in the program and to guarantee continued employment upon return of the participant.
- Upon completion of the US portion of the program, the applicant must be willing to return to their university to teach for a minimum of 2 years.

The FEP is not a degree-granting program. Rather it builds upon a participant's current academic knowledge, professional training, and experience so that they will be a more competent instructor of, and researcher in, agricultural science subjects. It equips participants in revising and improving their current courses and in introducing new subjects to assist in the development of the agricultural science sectors of the country. The program also provides exposure to up-to-date research methodologies used in the US. The FEP is intended to increase the validity and overall usefulness of a university's academic and adult education programs.

FEP participants will develop a deep conceptual understanding of how the agricultural sciences are taught in the US, how research is carried out, how results are applied, and how research is integrated into the academic curriculum. The learning experiences for FEP participants will be planned and conducted in collaboration with the University of Kentucky. These experiences will be tailored to participants' individual subject interests and training needs within the broad objectives of the program.

Other activities will include one-on-one meetings with an assigned US professor and group discussions on a variety of subjects; exposure to teaching methodologies and assessment techniques used in the US higher education system; course and curricula revision and development for academic and adult education; study of, and visits to, public and private agribusiness enterprises and research institutions to understand and experience firsthand the principles and practices of the US agricultural scientific community; and practical experiences with agribusinesses, research institutions, or other public or private entities involved in the US agricultural system.

Class work and classroom observation will be included. Each participant is expected to develop or revise at least two course outlines. During their stay in the US, participants will collect the materials and information necessary to teach the new or revised courses. It is expected that the participant will bring examples of their curriculum. Review, comparison, and revision of curricula will be an important part of the program. We also expect each participant to develop and adapt ideas for curricula design, teaching methods and materials, adult and extension education, and research methods and collaboration.

The FEP provides follow-up support to participants after they return to their home institutions. Funds are reserved for US professors to visit participants' universities to assist further in curricula reform and course and research development. Former participants have continued to maintain contact with the US universities where they were trained and US professors have continued to provide course outlines, critiques, and other valuable information by post, fax, and the Internet. We are particularly interested in applicants from Romanian universities interested in establishing long-term relationships with US universities.

If invited to participate in the FEP, the participant must have a physical examination (a form will be provided by the USDA) to be completed by a physician certifying that the participant is in good health. The USDA will provide emergency medical insurance only, which will not cover pre-existing or chronic medical conditions, medication, eyeglasses, or dental work. If there is a medical emergency, the participant will be responsible for paying a percentage of the costs.

If selected to participate, the USDA will pay round trip airfare to the US from the participant's country's capital city; program fees; book allowance; emergency medical insurance; and a stipend to cover food, lodging, and incidental expenses for the duration of the program.

Participants are expected to work productively throughout the program and to concentrate fully on their agreed-upon objectives. Any unwillingness to do so can result in the early termination of the program.

Applicants should please complete the application in English. We will only accept applications for the program that are completed in English. (However, the applicant's rector or dean, vice rector or vice dean, and department head can complete and sign their sections in their native language, if desired, with an English translation attached.). The applicant's training objectives and their university administration's expectations of them upon return should be discussed and agreed upon prior to the interviews.

Applications should be submitted to the USDA Agricultural Affairs Office at the addresses below **by May 18, 2006**. Interviews with applicants and their university administrators are tentatively scheduled to take place on May 22. Final selection of participants will be made by a committee at the Foreign Agricultural Service, International Cooperation and Development in Washington, DC. The Office of Agricultural Affairs at the US Embassy in the applicant's country will notify those selected and assist in making arrangements for visas, airplane tickets, and other logistics.